

WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 27, 2010

CALL TO ORDER	A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Chairman Hamade on Tuesday, April 27 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.
SALUTE TO FLAG	Chairman Hamade led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.
ROLL CALL	Commissioners Present: Hamade, Fisher, Nguyen, Robbins and Cruz. Commissioners Absent: None.
STAFF PRESENT	Adolfo Ozaeta, Civil Engineering Associate; Sergeant Nye, Westminster Police Department; Veronica Johnson, Secretary
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meeting of March 30, 2010 were approved (5-0).
ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	The first item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 77-142, Request for On-Street Disabled Parking at 7341 Natal Drive.
T.C. 77-142 7341 Natal Drive	Mr. Ozaeta explained to the Commission that Mr. Thomas Corbett of 7341 Natal Drive had requested on-street disabled parking in front of his home due to the fact that both he and his son possess disabled parking placards. The vehicles, two, owned by the residents are equipped with ADA wheelchair ramps. Mr. Ozaeta explained that the City's Disabled Parking Policy is intended as a service to the residents when it is difficult to park near the front door of their home and access their home. Typically, if this were one person requesting the disabled parking, staff would be inclined to deny the request due to the adequate width of the driveway. Staff is recommending that this request be approved due to the fact that both vehicles are registered to this home and both have wheelchair ramps. Mr. Ozaeta explained that he did receive one phone call opposed to the installation stating that there was only one disabled

person living in this home. Site visits did not reveal a high demand for on-street parking in the area and it is not an impacted parking zone.

STAFF'S

RECOMMENDATION Staff's recommendation was to approve the installation of on-street disabled parking at 7341 Natal Drive.

Chairman Hamade questioned what was in the garage, Mr. Ozaeta responded that staff was unable to verify what was in the garage on several visits. Staff assumed that like most garages in the City, it is not accessible for parking.

Commissioner Nguyen asked how big the driveway was. Mr. Ozaeta responded that it is a standard approach and widens at the top. The driveway is wide enough to park three vehicles.

Commissioner Robbins asked if staff had checked the slope of the driveway. Mr. Ozaeta responded that it seemed like it was sloped but it was not. Commissioner Robbins commented further that the truck parked in the driveway could be parked on the street and there would be plenty of room in the driveway.

Commissioner Nguyen further commented that he did not think there was a need for the restrictions. He believed it was more dangerous to park on the street and maneuver to the front door rather than parking in the driveway. Commissioner Nguyen is in support if there was a need for it, but he does not see a need for it here.

Mr. Ozaeta mentioned that there was a situation in the past where there were two disabled placards at the same residence. The Traffic Commission denied the request, but it was appealed to the City Council where it was approved.

Chairman Hamade stated that he views the situation as two disabled people living at the residence and understands the issue if there is one vehicle parked behind another to get in and out of the vehicle. He thinks that it would be easier to access the home if a vehicle were parked on the street.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that if approved, the Corporation Yard would cement a portion of the parkway to accommodate the resident.

Discussion followed amongst the Commission regarding the width of the driveway and whether it could accommodate three vehicles. Commissioner Robbins further suggested that the property owner could also cement some of the landscape and expand his driveway for easier access.

Vice Chairman Fisher asked if all the criteria of the Disabled Parking Policy had been met. Mr. Ozaeta replied that no, but it is not necessary to meet all the requirements.

Mr. Ozaeta clarified for Chairman Hamade that there are no obstacles between the driveway and the front door. He further explained that there are some residences that have detached garages with no direct access to the home, single car driveways, or a lot of landscaping between the driveway and the front door.

Chairman Hamade commented that the driveway at 7351 Natal Drive was wide and open and the property owner at 7341 could do the same. Mr. Ozaeta replied that in order to do that, the property owner would have to go through the planning department and there is a requirement to have a certain amount of landscaping.

MOTION

Commissioner Cruz moved to deny the request for on-street disabled parking at 7341 Natal Drive, seconded by Commissioner Robbins.

VOTE

The motion carried by a 4-1 vote with Vice Chairman Fisher opposing.

T.C. 10-102

8612 Westminster Blvd

The second item for discussion was T.C. 10-102, Request to Modify Parking Restrictions at 8612 Westminster Blvd.

Mr. Ozaeta stated staff had received a written request from Ms. Joy Neugebauer, as well as a letter of support from the Sanctuary Church, to modify the parking restrictions at 8612 Westminster Blvd. Using Exhibit A, Mr. Ozaeta illustrated the area in question. Ms. Neugebauer and her staff were concerned that there is not enough sight visibility to the west to safely perform a turn maneuver onto Westminster Blvd. Staff has been working with the Police Department and Ms. Neugebauer for some time to enforce the 72-hour parking limit. Ms. Neugebauer has also requested that parking restrictions be removed to the east side of the driveway. Mr. Ozaeta, based on engineering

knowledge and experience, recommends keeping 20 feet of parking restrictions at each of the driveways for vehicle maneuverability. Staff recommends removing the parking restrictions between the 20 feet of restrictions, 150 feet, restoring a considerable amount of parking. The parking restrictions in question were never brought before a Commission and staff will work with the City Clerk if the removal is approved.

STAFF'S

RECOMMENDATION Staff's recommendation was to install 47 feet of parking restrictions to the west of the driveway at 8612 Westminster Blvd, and the removal of 150 feet between the two driveways at 8612 and 8642 Westminster. This will increase the parking supply in the area and will accommodate school buses coming to the Historical Park, or Church groups coming to the Church.

Chairman Hamade opened the public hearing.

Ms. Joy Neugebauer, Westminster Historical Society, spoke in favor of the subject parking restrictions. Ms. Neugebauer stated that it is difficult to enter and exit the subject driveway, an RV that parks in the area and two Edison poles make it difficult to see oncoming traffic. Ms. Neugebauer also stated that she sees no purpose for the parking restrictions to the east of the driveway; it prevents school buses from stopping and unloading at the curb when they visit the park.

Commissioner Cruz stated that he was in favor of installing the 47 feet, he questioned if the 150 feet could be rezoned as a loading or passenger loading zone. Mr. Ozaeta responded that he has seen in other cities restrictions for passenger loading during certain hours of the day but they typically apply to schools.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Fisher moved to approve staff's recommendation, seconded by Chairman Hamade.

VOTE

The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

T.C. 73-126 Heil and Venus

The third item for discussion was T.C. 73-126, Request for Parking Restrictions at Heil Avenue (Alley) at Venus Drive.

Mr. Ozaeta explained to the Commission that staff is proposing the subject restrictions. Using Exhibit A, Mr. Ozaeta illustrated the subject area. There are currently no

parking restrictions on the subject service road. The service road is 15 feet wide and vehicles park on both sides of the street making it difficult for any service vehicle to enter this area. The vehicles that regularly park in the area also provide coverage for people to congregate in the area, graffiti, and partake in other activities, which is an issue for the resident at 14691. The fact that this road is a service road, it should just be used to only access the area to perform necessary measures.

STAFF'S

RECOMMENDATION Staff's recommendation was to install parking restrictions on the north and south side of the service road, west of Heil Avenue. If approved, staff will work on the best option for marking the restrictions in the area.

Commissioner Nguyen asked where the vehicles were coming from. Mr. Ozaeta answered that he believed the vehicles were from the adjacent apartment complex. When asked if the red curb would alleviate the problem, Mr. Ozaeta responded that he thought it would prevent vehicles from stopping in the area and limit the graffiti from occurring.

Chairman Hamade asked if only one side could be restricted. Mr. Ozaeta responded that width of the street did not allow enough room to safely access the road with vehicles parking on the street but it was up to the Commission's discretion to approve parking restrictions only on one side. Commissioner Robbins commented that from personal experience, he found it difficult to access the road for routine maintenance.

Sergeant Nye added that there are not a lot of vehicles that park in the area, those that do are abandoned and RVs. These vehicles provide coverage for vandals. A vehicle parking in the area must back in and out because there is not enough room to turn around. In his opinion, it is not a safe location to have significant parking.

MOTION

Chairman Hamade moved to approve staff's recommendation, seconded by Vice Chairman Fisher.

VOTE

The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no "New Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no "Old Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**INFORMATION
AND REPORTS**

There were no "Information and Reports" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ORAL
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Oral Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**WRITTEN
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS
COMMISSIONERS
MAY WISH TO
DISCUSS**

Commissioner Robbins informed that Commission that he would not be in attendance at the August meeting.

**ITEMS STAFF MAY
WISH TO DISCUSS**

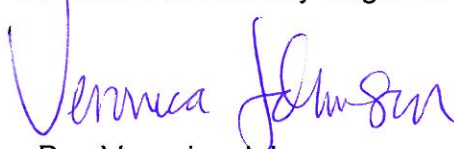
Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that the Mayor's office had sent with him applications for the Taxpayers Oversight Committee. The Mayor thought some Commission members may be interested and there is one opening in the district.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marwan Youssef
Public Works Director/City Engineer



By: Veronica Johnson
Secretary